

Q7 53. (Amended) The torque converter of claim 27, wherein said clutch further comprises a friction lamella disposed between said components and movable axially of said housing between an abutment provided in said housing and a piston movable axially of said housing and forming part of said driven component, wherein said housing includes a portion surrounding said clutch and said abutment is non-rotatably mounted in and movable axially of said housing.

REMARKS

The Examiner contends that the present application contains the following patentably distinct species: Fig. 2; 3; 19a, b; 20a, b; 21-22; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 25-28; 9 and 13; 13a; 10; 11; 12; 23; 24; 17a, b; 18a, b; 14-16a, b; 30; 31 and 32a; 32b; 33; 34a; 34b and 35. Applicants are required to elect one of the aforementioned species for prosecution on the merits.

Applicants elect, with traverse, the species containing Figs. 9 and 13 for further prosecution on the merits. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has provided no real explanation as to how the election requirement was formulated. Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the grouping of the species based on the following remarks. Figs. 10, 11 and 13a are directly related to Figs. 9 and 13 because they merely deal with different design versions for the same inventive concept. Furthermore, the grooves of the same kind as in the elected species of Figs. 9 and 13 can be used in the embodiments of

Figs. 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 so that with regard to the grooves in the steel, these embodiments are likewise to be considered examples. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration of the groupings of the election requirement.

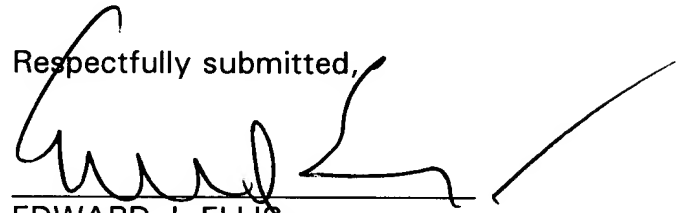
Applicants have amended claim 27 into independent form and have amended the dependencies of several other claims so that these claims refer back to the newly formulated independent claim 27. Claims 27-42 are readable on the elected species of Figs. 9 and 13. Further, claims 12, 13, 20-26, 43-47, 50 and 53 have been amended so that they now depend, directly or indirectly, from newly formulated independent claim 27.

While, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 4, 5 and 121 are generic, Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider whether claims 2 and 3 are likewise generic.

Based on the present amendment, Applicants believe that at least claims 12, 13, 20-47, 50 and 53 read on the elected species of Figs. 9 and 13 and therefore these claims should be prosecuted.

Applicants respectfully submit that this reply is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J. Ellis', is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature is a long, sweeping checkmark.

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(MARKED UP COPY OF THE CLAIMS)

12. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [5] 27, wherein the viscosity of fluid in the fluid flow between said plenum chambers varies in response to the changes of the extent of slip between said components and the rate of fluid flow between said chambers is regulated in response to variations of said viscosity.

13. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [5] 27, wherein the temperature of fluid in the flow between said chamber varies in response to changes of the extend of slip between said components and the rate of flow between said chambers is regulated in response to variations of said temperature.

20. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [5] 27, wherein said driving component forms part of said housing and said driven component comprises a piston at least partially sealing said plenum chambers from each other in the engaged condition of said clutch.

21. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [5] 27, wherein said driving component forms part of said housing and said driven component comprises a piston at least partially sealing said plenum chambers from each other in the engaged condition of said clutch.

22. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [5] 27, wherein said clutch further comprises a lamella disposed between said components and movable axially of said housing, in response to axial movement of said driven component, into frictional engagement with said components in the engaged condition of said clutch.

26. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [5] 27, further comprising at least one cooling unit for said clutch, said cooling unit being arranged to exchange heat with at least one of said components.

27. (Amended) [The] A hydrokinetic torque converter [of claim 5,]
comprising:

a housing rotatable about a predetermined axis;

a pump rotatable by said housing about said axis;

a turbine rotatable in said housing about said axis by and relative to
said pump;

means for rotating said housing;

an output element rotatable about said axis and arranged to receive
torque from said turbine;

a fluid-operated bypass clutch disposed in said housing and arranged
to transmit variable torque between said housing and said output element, said

clutch including a driven component rotatable with said output element and
movable axially of said housing into and from frictional engagement - with and
without slip - with said driving component;

means for moving said driven component, including first and second
plenum chambers containing bodies of hydraulic fluid at variable pressure with the
provision for fluid flow between said chambers through said clutch; and wherein
said clutch further comprises at least one friction lining borne by one of said
components and frictionally engaging the other of said components in the engaged
condition of said clutch, said components and said friction linings having friction
surfaces each of which engages another of said surfaces at least in the engaged
condition of said clutch, said regulating means having recesses extending at least
substantially radially of said axis and provided in at least one of said surfaces to
establish at least a portion of said fluid flow in the engaged condition of said clutch.

43. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [5] 27, wherein said
clutch further comprises a lamella disposed between said components and rotatable
with said output element, said lamella having first and second surfaces respectively
confronting said driving and driven components and said regulating means including
recesses provided in at least one of said surfaces and establishing paths for the
flow of fluid between said chambers in the engaged condition of said clutch.

47. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [5] 27, further comprising a damper arranged to damp torsional vibrations between said housing and said output element in the engaged condition of said clutch, said damper including an input having a lamella disposed between and frictionally engaging said components in the engaged condition of said clutch, an output arranged to rotate with said output element, and at least one energy storing element interposed between said input and said output.

50. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [49] 27, wherein said clutch further comprises at least one porous layer disposed between said components and establishing a plurality of paths for the flow of fluid between said chambers in the engaged condition of said clutch, wherein said porous layer includes an annular disc containing a sintered material, wherein said sintered material is selected from the group of materials consisting of metal, plastic, glass, ceramics and mixtures and compounds thereof.

53. (Amended) The torque converter of claim [52] 27, wherein said clutch further comprises a friction lamella disposed between said components and movable axially of said housing between an abutment provided in said housing and a piston movable axially of said housing and forming part of said driven component, wherein said housing includes a portion surrounding said clutch and

said abutment is non-rotatably mounted in, and movable axially of [said housing] said
housing.